

# Small business program meets established goals

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 million that went to women. But that's small potatoes for black entrepreneurs, said Nathaniel Jones, president of Jones Grading and Fencing in Charlotte. "I can't tell a single difference since it started," he said. "We're registered, we're on the SBO list, everything is active. But I don't remember being called for anything."

One of the city's largest building projects over the last three years, Charlotte Bobcats Arena, surpassed goals for minority participation, Capers said. More than \$26 million in contracts went to companies owned by persons of color and women. The entire project was budgeted at \$265 million.

"We exceeded the goal of 15 percent," Capers said. What's lost in that is that money was spent with local firms within the seven counties around Charlotte."

The program's success has spurred talk of boosting the goal, but no action has been

taken yet. A potential pitfall is raising the bar too high to succeed due to a lack of vendors. The city has more than 680 companies registered on its small business roster.

"The response we're getting is they're getting enough work," Capers said. "I'm not sure what the city is going to do to raise the goal. We could raise the goal, but do we have enough SBEs?" Jones would like to have

some opportunities for his business.

"I haven't been the recipient of any new jobs since it started," he said. "I don't remember a single person calling and telling me there's a job available."

On the Net:  
 Charlotte Small Business Opportunity statistics  
[www.charmeck.org/departments/economic+development/home](http://www.charmeck.org/departments/economic+development/home)



PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

Robert Surls of Charlotte loads scaffolding at a construction site near uptown. The city's Small Business Opportunity program is meeting goals, according to the latest statistics.

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Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
A p.m. shower possible	Chance of a little rain	A morning shower possible	Cloudy with rain possible	A good deal of sunshine	Chance of a little rain	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny
60°	40°	60° 42°	57° 27°	54° 30°	55° 31°	51° 29°	49° 27°
RealFeel 56°	RealFeel 40°	RealFeel 56° 30°	RealFeel 49° 24°	RealFeel 49° 24°	RealFeel 51° 78°	RealFeel 46° 32°	RealFeel 43° 30°

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#### Temperatures

#### Precipitation

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

#### IN THE SKY

Sun		Moon		Moon Phases			
Thursday	Friday	Thursday	Friday	First	Full	Last	New
Rise 7:22 a.m.	7:22 a.m.	Rise 9:58 a.m.	10:56 p.m.				
Set 5:53 p.m.	5:54 p.m.	Set none	none	2/5	2/12	2/21	2/27

#### REGIONAL CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W		Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Aiken, SC	64 47 sh	63 44 pc	59 29 r	59 30 s	Memphis, TN	54 47 r	59 37 t	52 33 sh	51 39 s
Augusta, GA	64 41 sh	66 44 pc	57 30 r	61 30 s	Myrtle Beach, SC	63 49 s	65 51 sh	61 37 r	54 36 s
Charleston, SC	66 50 s	67 51 sh	62 37 r	59 38 s	Norfolk, VA	58 45 pc	61 46 r	57 40 r	48 31 pc
Columbia, SC	64 48 pc	64 46 pc	60 33 r	57 34 s	Raleigh, NC	63 42 s	60 40 sh	57 36 r	51 27 s
Durham, NC	62 43 s	58 43 sh	57 37 r	52 29 s	Richmond, VA	60 42 pc	61 42 r	56 33 r	51 30 pc
Greensboro, NC	62 42 pc	58 40 sh	54 33 s	50 31 s	Roanoke, VA	57 39 c	57 38 sh	49 32 r	48 30 pc
Greenville, SC	60 44 sh	61 44 c	56 30 r	56 33 s	Savannah, GA	68 48 s	66 48 sh	64 38 r	59 37 s
Knoxville, TN	53 45 r	58 39 c	47 28 sh	50 32 s	Wilmington, NC	65 52 s	65 51 r	62 37 r	58 35 s
Lynchburg, VA	55 38 pc	58 38 sh	50 29 r	46 26 pc	Winston-Salem, NC	61 45 sh	58 42 sh	53 33 r	51 31 s

#### U.S. CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W		Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	55 50 r	64 42 c	55 33 c	56 38 s	Miami	83 68 pc	82 69 sh	79 62 t	73 61 s
Boston	46 34 sh	46 36 sh	46 36 pc	41 26 r	Minneapolis	38 20 en	28 14 sf	24 10 pc	26 12 c
Chicago	46 32 pc	42 24 sh	34 22 sn	30 16 sf	New Orleans	74 62 t	75 52 pc	66 47 pc	65 51 s
Cleveland	45 37 pc	47 32 r	37 25 sn	37 25 sf	New York City	52 38 c	54 38 sh	48 34 r	42 33 r
Dallas	74 46 s	60 40 pc	60 44 s	65 42 s	Orlando	80 58 pc	80 59 sh	72 50 r	66 46 s
Denver	50 22 sh	37 16 pc	47 21 s	48 21 pc	Pittsburgh	45 36 pc	52 34 sh	43 29 r	39 26 sf
Detroit	44 32 c	44 30 sh	38 24 sn	34 26 sf	Phoenix	76 50 s	78 52 r	78 51 s	79 49 s
Houston	78 56 s	70 48 pc	62 48 pc	70 52 s	San Francisco	60 51 sh	63 49 pc	59 47 r	59 45 s
Kansas City	55 31 pc	46 26 r	45 29 pc	46 30 c	Seattle	49 40 sh	51 44 r	49 38 r	48 36 r
Los Angeles	70 52 s	72 52 s	70 50 s	68 48 s	Washington, DC	56 36 c	54 38 sh	54 38 r	44 32 r

#### WORLD CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W		Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Amsterdam	43 34 pc	43 34 s	41 32 pc	41 32 c	Paris	45 28 s	45 28 s	43 28 s	41 25 pc
Berlin	36 28 s	36 27 pc	32 19 sf	28 19 pc	Rio de Janeiro	85 74 sh	86 75 pc	88 74 pc	89 75 pc
Buenos Aires	84 67 pc	84 68 pc	89 72 pc	79 67 pc	Rome	59 43 pc	59 43 pc	59 45 c	55 41 sh
Carro	73 54 pc	66 50 pc	68 57 pc	69 50 pc	San Juan	84 72 s	84 72 s	83 70 s	84 72 pc
Jerusalem	66 53 r	55 42 pc	58 46 c	60 40 pc	Seoul	25 -2 c	19 2 s	21 8 s	28 17 pc
Johannesburg	77 58 s	79 56 pc	74 57 pc	72 59 pc	Sydney	78 68 s	74 74 pc	81 68 pc	73 68 pc
London	43 36 c	43 36 c	43 36 c	41 32 pc	Tokyo	42 32 pc	34 24 pc	39 27 s	44 31 s
Mexico City	76 42 pc	73 40 c	73 34 pc	76 37 pc	Toronto	43 34 sn	45 32 r	37 28 sn	31 20 sf
Moscow	5 2 c	5 -5 sn	3 -4 sn	6 -3 sn	Zurich	42 26 pc	48 28 pc	46 28 pc	44 31 c

Weather: W= sunny; pe=partly cloudy; c=cloudy; sh=showers; f=flurries; s=sunny; r=rain; sf=snow flurries; sn=snow; h=c

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